

Hello Tom Kasperson,

I understand you are the committee chair discussing house bill 4743. I'm writing to let you know that I'm opposed to the bill, and its ability to take away the power of LOCAL Michigan townships to govern where mineral extractions can take place in our townships. It's incredibly important for the townships to be able to set guide lines on where certain kinds of mineral extractions can take place in a community setting. That includes rural communities. Please remember, just because some of us residents of Michigan do not live in an actual town, but we still have a community, and a quality of life that is worth preserving, and worth setting rules and guide lines for. If extraction could happen anywhere big business finds a deposit of gas, gravel, bauxite, water or whatever, where does that leave the rest of us who live here. What happens to the value of our homes and lives that we have spent a life time creating, when Big Biz can come and go anywhere and destroy our environment, with noise pollution, poison our streams, suck our aquifers dry, and generally disregard the wishes of the LOCAL community. I believe this bill was initiated by business interest who are tired of "having to deal with those pesky rules set down by yokel locals who do not know what's best for themselves". I'm really, really tired of big business running this state to the detriment of the citizens. You representatives were elected by the people of this state to REPRESENT THE PEOPLE, not the big gas, big mining, big water interest that you all cater to. Yes I know you all mention the need for jobs. That's a smoke screen and I for one am tired of hearing it used to cram through legislation that has less to say for jobs but more to profits for big companies who have more power than the voting public.. Please, Please listen to me and my neighbors, by putting a stop to this legislation in your committee.

Thank you for time, hope you are able to open your ears and listen to the CITIZENS of this state.

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PS I'm a craftsman, and employer (3 people) in this state, and am seriously considering moving my business and home to another state if this legislation passes. Our quality of life will be nothing and my home value will plummet, along with most of my neighbors.